Abstract

A method and apparatus for reprogramming a digital electronic device or Appliance is provided. A preferred embodiment locates a reprogrammable Controller chip in the communications flow between a reprogrammable digital device and an application server. The application server transmits commands and programming data to the Controller chip in data packets via the Internet. The Controller sniffs each data packet to determine the type of data contained therein. The Controller will immediately forward certain types of data packet onto the digital device. Alternatively, the Controller may store data packets that relate to the reprogramming of either the digital device or the Controller itself, for collation and later transference during a reprogramming of the digital device or the Controller. Data packets may contain upgrade data, status queries, monitoring instructions, logic settings, and other information relating to the operation and status of the server, device or Controller. The application server of the preferred embodiment transmits Controller and device specific instruction commands via the Internet that are related to the native language of the Controller and/or the digital device. The device may be programmed to periodically check in with the applications server for purposes such as security, reporting, maintenance and/or refreshing the operational methodology of the system. The periodic check-ins maybe real time based, time-period based and/or event driven. The Controller may optionally be accelerated by a high performance processor. The Controller may use PKI encryption techniques, store public keys and private keys, and generate public/private key pairs.